

Of all the things that Scott gave me, the one thing I think will most sustain me is his sense of humor. We laughed hard. He had an array of talents in impersonations. He perfectly imitated the President's "I'm the governor of Texas" line. With his jokes, Scott could bring tears to my eyes. Mike Myers was one of his favorite comedians, and Scott did the best impression of Fat Bastard (Can I say that in church?) Please forgive me. He loved South Park, the Jerky Boys, and did a mean impression of James Brown.

Now, people pass away every minute of every day, but I find it especially fitting, that we are gathered here on Holy Saturday, the day the Christian faith weeps over the loss of our Lord's only son. We weep with God, but like Jesus, Scott is not sad. We are the ones that are sad. You see, Scott is already with God. The moment his last breath left his body on Monday, March 25th, was the moment that Jesus took his hand and brought him home to a beautiful place, to a place where Scott could be with his grandfather, uncle, Farfie, and Fritz and, as his friend Vin pointed out, all the philosophers and political theorists. In fact, he might not even be listening to us now because he's too busy telling off Rousseau.

Scott, we feel your presence with us, and we will love you and keep you in our hearts forever.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday was Equal Pay Day. That is the day when women rise to say they are not being equally paid. A year and 4 months into the next year is how long women had to wait this year in order to earn what the average man earned. I feel Equal Pay Day, I suppose, stronger than most. I feel like I have been working for equal pay for women at least half of my life. I am a former Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where I administered the Equal Pay Act. It is amazing to see that this act has not been touched in 40 years. It was the first of the great civil rights acts to be passed. It obviously needs to be revised because it is a very different world with a very different economy from the 1963 economy.

There is a bill here pending, the Paycheck Fairness Act, that would modestly revise this bill. Did we know, for example, that if women and men discuss their wages against the wishes of the employer in the workplace, he can sanction them? The Paycheck Fairness Act would bar that. And did we realize that class actions under the Equal Pay Act are much harder to obtain because the act was passed so early? So it is an unequal civil rights law.

Actually there are two kinds of equal pay. One kind was violated right under our nose. A couple of months ago I went to the Ford Building to see the women who clean the House receive their checks from a class action they won against the Congress of the United States because women who clean our

offices were paid a dollar less than men who clean our offices. And they won. This was the first class action brought under the Congressional Accountability Act. All I can say is the women who clean this House and this Senate held us accountable. But then there is another kind of equal pay, and that is the kind that affects the average woman. Senator TOM HARKIN and I have a bill to go at that pay. It goes at jobs that are underpaid because they are stereotyped as female jobs.

Women work in only three sectors: factory, service, and clerical. Those jobs are often paid according to the gender and not the sex. The Fair Pay Act would allow women to sue when the job she is doing is equal in responsibility and in content to the job a man is doing even though that job is not the very same job. It is interesting when you poll, you find that equal pay is among the top one or two issues for the American public. Why is that? Because equal pay is no longer a woman's issue. Equal pay has become one of the great family issues of our time. If there is a working woman in your family, you lose \$4,000 annually because one of the breadwinners, or in some cases the only breadwinner, is a woman.

It is time we fixed the Equal Pay Act. It was a great breakthrough in 1963. Almost 40 years later it needs the kind of repair that you would need if you were 40 years old and had not seen a doctor since you were born. The EPA has not seen a doctor. It has not had us tend to it for 40 years. The Paycheck Fairness Act is certainly the place to begin; 194 Democrats have signed on. I am sure many Republicans also agree that this is the year to tell America that we understand that women and men work, that they are in the same families, that when they have been doing the same jobs, similar jobs or comparable jobs, they should be paid equally.

If we did not learn anything else on Equal Pay Day, I hope that is the message we sent. I certainly hope that before this session is out, this Congress will do more than rhetorically recognize the notion of equal pay. Let us pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

#### PROTECTING AMERICAN INDIAN LANDS AND ALASKA NATIVE SACRED LANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the congressional Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2085, the Valley of Chiefs Native American Sacred Site Preservation Act, which would safeguard an area very sacred to a number of Indian tribes, and ask that my colleagues support this bill as well. In addition, I want to comment on the need to protect other threatened American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) sacred lands.

Our many democratic forums establish an opportunity for discussions to take place to

better understand the social, economic, legal and political complexity of AI/AN realities, before related legislation is brought to the House Floor for a vote. As Congressional history demonstrates, the decisions we make as Representatives can either positively or negatively impact AI/AN people, and their nations, tribes, bands, villages and communities.

For example, between 1887 and 1934, the U.S. Government took over 90 million acres of land from American Indians without compensation—including sacred lands. More recently, between 1945 and 1968, Congress decided that federal recognition and assistance to more than 100 tribes should be terminated. This termination policy created economic disaster for many American Indians, and their nations, resulting in millions of acres of valuable natural resource land being lost through tax forfeiture sales. This is a primary reason why AI/AN families have the highest poverty level of any group in the country, at a rate of 31 percent on some Indian reservations.

By holding hearings on the impact of legislation related to American Indians and Alaska Natives, Congress moved to rectify its prior decisions by passing self-determination and self-governance policies. As a result of such policies, AI/AN nations and villages have greater control over their lands and resources. They have made great strides toward reversing the economic blight that resulted from previous federal policies, and have revived their unique cultures and nations.

Congress must withstand pressure from those individuals and groups that call for backtracking to old AI/AN policies, such as termination and reduction of AI/AN sovereign rights. We must acknowledge and learn from our mistakes, and not repeat them in the future because AI/AN nations and people are relying upon our commitments.

The United States Constitution recognizes that American Indian Nations are sovereign governments. Hundreds of treaties, the Supreme Court, the President and the Congress have repeatedly affirmed that Indian Nations retain their inherent powers of self-government. In addition, the United States Government is committed to a trustee relationship with the Indian Nations. This trust relationship requires the federal government to exercise the highest degree of care with tribal and Indian lands and resources.

Sacred lands, and ceremonies associated with those lands, are a necessary expression of AI/AN spirituality, and often are key to individual and collective wellness. This necessity is situated deep in the ancient history of these Indian nations and maintains a prominent place in the fact-based stories handed down from one generation to another. Since the coming of the Europeans to these shores in the late 14th Century, these sacred lands have been subject to intrusions and disturbance as settlers laid claim to lands of the AI/AN peoples.

In 1978, Congress passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, recognizing the necessity of upholding the protection of AI/AN spirituality within the ambit of the religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Unfortunately, litigation in the courts since then to safeguard sacred lands, and the ceremonies associated with those lands, has, for the most part been unsuccessful.

Rather than safeguard sacred lands, these cases have upheld multiple intrusions upon

them and maintained a history of subordination of AI/AN spirituality to the interests of dominating groups. Federal government representatives, leaders of historic religions and judiciary members must develop more tolerance and expand their definitions of what constitutes a proper sacred place.

Culture and legal scholar, Davis Mayberry-Lewis, writes: "American Indian religions consider the earth as sacred, whereas the secular culture that surrounds them considers the earth to be real estate. It is hard for the strong to give up their ingrained habit of overpowering the weak, but it is essential if we are to make multiethnic societies like our own work with a minimum of civility."

Anthropologist Elizabeth Brandt states: "The free practice of many Indian religions requires privacy and undisturbed access to culturally and religiously significant sites and their resources. It is irrevocably tied to specific places in the world which derive their power and sacred character from their natural undisturbed state."

Ultimately, how free are we, really, if the first religions of our great country cannot be protected? Therefore I strongly support H.R. 2085, the Valley of Chiefs Native American Sacred Site Preservation Act, which would safeguard an area very sacred to a number of Indian tribes, and ask that my colleagues support this bill as well.

I also call for additional Sacred Land legislation to be developed in consultation with the majority of AI/AN nations in the United States. Furthermore, the establishment of a government-wide, effective, and comprehensive procedure that safeguards the loss of further AI/AN sacred lands must be enacted. We must move swiftly in conjunction with AI/AN nations before more sacred lands, such as Mt. Shasta and Medicine Lake of California, Devil's Tower and Black Hills of South Dakota, to name a few, are further desecrated and damaged.

I ask you, what if, despite your objections to the contrary, your spiritual place was being bulldozed for economic activity or spiked for scaling purposes? How would you feel, what would you think and what would you do? I ask you to support H.R. 2085 and the initiatives I have discussed related to safeguarding the loss of further AI/AN sacred lands.

#### IN MEMORY OF SCOTT BILLINGSLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to pay tribute to Scott Billingsley. Scott died suddenly and unexpectedly on March 25, 2002. He was only 31 years old.

Scott had served ably as Counsel to the Committee on Government Reform for two years before recently leaving to become Legislative Director for Congressman TANCREDO. In his time with the Committee, Scott displayed the best characteristics of a Capitol Hill professional: idealism, honesty, dependability, and selfless devotion to his work. His endearing spirit and infectious good cheer were a blessing to his co-workers with whom he spent countless long hours and late nights. Everyone who knew Scott liked him, and those who knew him best will love and remember him

forever. Scott wanted to make a difference in the world, and he did—not just professionally but personally as well. Others can speak more eloquently about Scott's unique personality, and they have done so in the eulogies that Mr. TANCREDO will place into the RECORD. I want to take this opportunity, however, to say a few words about Scott Billingsley's work for the Committee.

Scott's deeply held belief in the importance of integrity and accountability in government led him to become a Counsel for the Committee on Government Reform. In that position, he played a vital role in our oversight investigations in recent years. Most recently Scott was responsible for drafting the largest and most important section of the Committee's report on abuses of the Presidential pardon power—a chapter on the pardons of Marc Rich and Pincus Green. Scott's work on this chapter represented a substantial share of the final product and formed the solid foundation on which others built. Even though Scott left the Committee before the report was complete, he generously returned to our offices on many occasions to assist the staff in completing what he had begun. He did this under no obligation and on his own time, which says a lot about the kind of person he was. Now, we know how precious little time Scott had left, and we are honored that he chose to spend some of it at the Committee.

Scott's parents—and his fiancée, Katie—should be proud of his professional accomplishments. Scott was an excellent lawyer who chose to defend the principles he held dear. He gladly sacrificed the lure of private sector salaries in favor of public service, working tirelessly to promote what he believed in so passionately. Scott's work reflected his strong conviction that public corruption should be opposed vigorously. His commitment to honesty and integrity in government deserves to be remembered and honored, as does his drive and determination to work toward those goals. Therefore, as a token of our appreciation for his service to the Committee, I will be presenting to Scott's family a special copy of the pardon report on which he worked so diligently—dedicated to the memory of an extraordinary professional: Scott Billingsley.

May he rest in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHOWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY  
STAFF SGT. BRIAN THOMAS CRAIG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. While serving his country in Afghanistan, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brian Thomas Craig, from my hometown of Houston, was killed on Monday, April 15, 2002, in a field near the former compound of the Taliban leader.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of a truly brave American.

Brian Craig was twenty-seven years old and had spent the majority of his adult life in service to our nation. He joined the Army in 1993, shortly after graduating from Klein Forest High School, where he was an excellent student.

Yesterday, the Houston Chronicle reported on Brian's truly patriotic life. I would like to share the following excerpt:

A straight-A student with college potential, Craig wanted to join the Army first. A high school social studies teacher, Scott Boyer, who recently died, instilled a sense of patriotism in Craig as they studied the Gulf War. "We knew from his junior year that he would enlist after graduation," said Joe Georgiana, a retired marketing teacher from Craig's high school. "It was always his objective. He never wavered."

Brian is survived by his parents, Pastor Arthur and Barbara Craig, a brother, Kevin Craig and a sister, Elaine Hurtado.

The United States Army goes out every day to make a difference and Brian Thomas Craig certainly did—some days in a small way, some days in a big way, and on April 15, 2002, at the cost of his life. One cannot ask more from our brave military personnel.

The loss of any life is a tragic event. The Book of John, Chapter 15, verse 13 states: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

I believe this message has a special meaning today and forever. As a father, I cannot begin to understand the pain and heartache felt by the Craig family. I can only say that his death was not in vain, and we all join together to pray for them.

Staff Sgt. Brian Thomas Craig's dedication and devotion to the citizens of our nation serves as a model for those who have dedicated their lives to defending our country and the ideals we hold dear.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. If this is the measure of worth in life, a grateful nation can attest to the success of the life that Staff Sgt. Brian Thomas Craig led.

Brian will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, a fitting tribute, and a memorial service is planned for Friday at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Houston.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in expressing our condolences to the Brian Craig family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)